

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 19, 2021**

Chair Lindberg convened the special Park Commission meeting telephonically at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

Present were Commissioners: Vice Chair Costello, Commissioner Metz, Commissioner Fischer, and Commissioner Strehlow

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; PW Office Assistant, Jeannie Novak; Council Liaison Charlesworth and Mahtomedi Residents, Bob Schneeweis, Sandra Wilkinson, Jay Johnson, Mitch and Mary Kiel

Absent: Commissioner Thompson and Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson

AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Fischer; seconded by Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the agenda was approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Metz, Lindberg, Fischer, Strehlow and Costello. Nay: None

MINUTES

Upon motion by Vice Chair Costello; seconded by Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the April 21, 2021 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Metz, Lindberg, Fischer, Strehlow and Costello. Nay: None

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. All the parks are open as well as the bathrooms with the exception of the beach. The dock at the beach went in today and hoping to get the buoys out tomorrow but fore before the weekend. We're busy cutting the grass, fertilizing and spraying for weeds throughout all the parks. **Phase 4 East** – The contractor is working on the watermains and then will be moving on to the storm sewers. **2021 Street Improvement Project** – We have milled several streets so far, we have already overlayed the Glendale Alley, the Wedgewood Trail, they will be continuing down the list of all the mill and overlays next week. Also, unrelated to this project but kind of related, they did add a crosswalk opening at the end of Gosiwin Avenue in case the Park Commission goes along with adding the trail there. They didn't want to make it look like the trail is a done deal but they wanted to have it in so we don't have to damage the brand new road. The **Glenmar Diversion Project** - All the pipework and cement work is done, the curb went in yesterday, they are continuing to grade it to finish grade for the roads and anticipate blacktop at the end of next week. **Seasonals** - We were fortunate enough to hire 3 seasonals, we have one onboard already, the 2nd will start tomorrow and the 3rd one next week. We'll keep them busy as we have a lot of potholes out there. **Downtown Corridor** – The baskets are ready to be picked up and installed and we have a new contractor that is going to start working for us who will take care of all our plantings, gardens and baskets on a daily basis. **Arbor Day Tree** – At next month's Park Commission meeting we will be meeting at Wedgewood Park, where the new playground is going to be installed about the 3rd week of June and we're going to plant a tree for Arbor Day. The recommended tree by our forester is going to be two flowering crab apple trees. He thinks it would be a great location for some more shade and more flowering trees.

STAFF REPORTS Con't

Chair Lindberg asked if the trail over by Hwy 244 and Maple Street is being resurfaced. Director Goebel stated that yes it is going to be resurfaced and yesterday we trimmed back all the brush there so that the dump trucks can make it through. They'll be going from Juniper Street to Maple Street. **Commissioner Fischer** stated that she is the contractor who has been hired to take care of the City's gardens, baskets and plantings while Natalie is out on maternity leave.

OPEN FORUM

Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson could not be here tonight but Director Goebel stated that she would want everyone to know and to advertise that there will be three food trucks at the DEC this Friday.

Council Liaison Charlesworth updated the commission on things that are going on at City Hall. After the City survey was complete this past spring, the residents are overwhelmingly in favor of reducing the speed limits in the city and the City Council approved lowering the speed limits at last night's meeting. For the most part if the street is not a feeder or an arterial street the speed limit will be lowered to 20 mph, some of the other streets like Lincolntown Avenue and Long Lake Road will stay at 30 mph with the exception of Echo Lake to Lincolntown Avenue which will also be 20 mph. Also, a contract with the YMCA for lifeguards at Mahtomedi Beach was approved, their hours will be from Noon to 8:00 PM, in addition to the lifeguards there will be an attendant as well. We are looking into trying to get extended hours for 4th of July weekend when it is typically 90 degrees and a whole lot more people. The council also approved signage for the portion of the Lake Links Trail that will be named Wolgamot Way. Director Goebel said they have come up with a design for the signs, they are going to be yellow with blue lettering, 5 signs were ordered today, one will go at the south end of town where the Lake Links Trail begins at the Birchwood City line, another will go on the north end of the trail where it intersects with Dwinnell, the third one will go somewhere in the middle, right now we're thinking in front of the Dist. Ed. Center, the other two will be used as spares unless we find a good location for them. Director Goebel also stated that the council has directed him to look into extending the YMCA lifeguard hours, he did speak with them and they are willing to extend the hours in the morning, starting at 10:00 am rather than noon however after 8:00 pm they can't really see into the water well enough to guard it according to their standards. **Mahtomedi Resident, Bob Schneeweis** commented that the council meeting was a great meeting and regarding the beach, they seem very focused on safety. **Vice Chair Costello** asked for clarification on lowering the speed limits. **Director Goebel** stated that the policy is a blanket policy for all the street within Mahtomedi except for certain streets that are written out of the policy, such as state aid roads which Briarwood is a state aid road. The only 30 mph road will be Long Lake Road from Hwy 120 down to Echo Lake Blvd.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Resume in person meetings beginning in June – Wedgewood Park Arbor Day Tree Planting** - **Director Goebel** stated we will hold our next meeting at Wedgewood Park to a couple trees. The recommended tree by our forester is a flowering crab apple tree and we will plant 2 of them. He thinks it would be a great location for some more shade and more flowering trees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Gosiwin Trail – A very lengthy discussion was held regarding the Gosiwin Trail connection.** Director Goebel gave everyone a little background on this project and said as part of the community survey that was done in March, residents were very much in favor of more trails and connecting trails and that WSB Engineer, John Sachi said this is a feasible project, not a very large project but something that can be done, it would include a paved trail from Gosiwin Court Cul-de-sac, where the pedestrian ramp was installed, out to the boulevard of Dahlia Street, from there it would turn East and head up the hill to Eastgate Trail. This project came up at the council level and we were directed to bring it back to the Park Commission for their recommendation and to see if the neighborhood would be in favor or not. **Commissioner Fischer** stated that this is her neighborhood and there was discussion in the past about painting a white line on the side of the road as a walking/biking path, she feels it should be one or the other not both but also feels a paved path is not necessary. Director Goebel stated that the white line was talked about but is not in the works right now. He also read a lengthy email from Mahtomedi Resident, Brian Allan as he was unable to attend tonight's meeting but wanted his voice of opposition heard. Mahtomedi Residents, Mitch and Mary Kiel also spoke about their opposition to the paved trail connection. **Chair Lindberg** is in favor of the connecting the trail from Gosiwin to Dahlia. **Commissioner Strehlow** asked if there are other lower impact options other than asphalt and does it have to be 8 feet wide. **Director Goebel** stated from a maintenance perspective he would prefer a minimum of a 6 foot wide trail and it would have to be paved in order for our equipment to be able to clear snow. Mulch or dresser trap rock would not be able to be maintained in the winter. **Commissioner Strehlow** asked if could just be an unmaintained trail in the winter. **Director Goebel** stated that having an unmaintained trail could be a commission recommendation that could be brought to council for their decision. **Commissioner Metz** is in favor of the connection piece but feels the Dahlia piece could be left as it is today. **Vice Chair Costello** asked if a decision has to be made today or could this be tabled for further study. **Council Liaison Charlesworth** stated that the council is looking for the opinion of the Commission on whether they support or reject this trail connection. The Commissioners decided that they would like to see a neighborhood meeting scheduled with the engineers and to have some conceptual drawings for people to see what the trail will look like. **Director Goebel** stated that he would discuss setting up a neighborhood meeting sometime next month with the engineers tomorrow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Con't.

b. **Beach Hours – Director Goebel** gave a little background on the ongoing beach hours discussion, the Council directed him to survey surrounding communities with beaches on what their hours currently are and have been in the past as to remain consistent. Currently all of our parks are open from 5 am to 10 pm. Director Goebel shared his screen which showed the list of surrounding beaches, their hours and if they are guarded or not. (See table below)

BEACH	HOURS	GUARDS
White Bear Lake - 3 Swim Areas	6 am - 10 pm	No
White Bear Township - Bellaire Beach	30 min before sunrise - 30 min after sunset	12 pm - 7 pm
Ramsey County Parks - 9 Beaches	30 min before sunrise - 30 min after sunset	only 2 are guarded 12 pm - 8 pm
Ramsey Beach	30 min before sunrise - 30 min after sunset	No
Birchwood - 5 Beaches	Open 24 Hours	No
Mahtomedi Beach	5 am - 10 pm	12 pm - 8 pm
Chautauqua Beach	5 am - 10 pm	No

A very lengthy discussion was held with the Park Commission members, Mahtomedi Residents, Bob Schneeweis; Chuck and Sandra Wilkinson and Jay Johnson regarding changing the hours or not at the beach. **Director Goebel** stated that a motion needed to be made to the Council.

Upon motion by Vice Chair Costello, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, four members voting in favor to recommend the City Council approve changing the hours at Mahtomedi and Chautauqua Beaches for the summer to Sunrise to 9:00 pm. Yea: Lindberg, Costello, Strehlow and Fischer. Nay: Metz.

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Wedgewood Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Fischer; seconded by, Vice Chair Costello, all members voting in favor by roll call vote. Yea: Metz, Lindberg, Strehlow, Fischer and Costello. Nay: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant